

Defensive victory as a rhetorical figure

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In this article I examine the use of “defensive victory” in Finnish political rhetoric and rhetoric related to WWII, from 1940 to the 2020s. First, my focus is on how the concept of defensive victory came about and how it has been used in relation to the Continuation War in particular. Second, I analyze how “defensive victory” has been politicized in postwar rhetoric, regarding the elections, and in relation to the European Union. The argument is that “defensive victory” has been transferred from its original context in a way that defining it as a rhetorical figure is justified. It has become a catchword that crystallizes the military, political and moral situation at hand, while the initial connection to WWII has waned. Rhetoric pertaining to “defensive victory” draws extensively on the so-called four master tropes, metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy and irony. The analysis illustrates how political and military vocabulary intertwine in Finnish political rhetoric.

Keywords: defensive victory, rhetoric, the continuation war, the EU, elections

The discussion on military conscription in Finland: opinion pieces on military conscription in Helsingin Sanomat 2008–2018

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The article analyses Finnish public discourse on military conscription represented by opinion pieces published in Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat during 2008–2018. For a long time, the dominating consensus was and still is to preserve military conscription, but the opinion piece data also provides the opportunity to observe critical views. The focus of this article is especially set on the discourses of citizens, which have not been previously explored in the research literature. The analysis of the opinion pieces is based on qualitative methods. The research theory is Benedict Anderson's definition on nations as imagined communities. From Anderson's theory's point of view, the military conscription is one way among other ways to imagine the imagined community of Finland. One important conclusion can be collectively drawn from the data: The equality between men and women puts pressure on changing the military conscription. Nevertheless, on an individual level the authors seem to have a wide and diverse range of arguments in their ways to approach military conscription. This article provides new information especially on discussions on military conscription by citizens and provides an insight into the broader political meaning of military conscription in addition to its military significance.

Keywords: military conscription, nation, nationalism, equality, national defence, economy.

Mobility and translation of water stream policy

– removal projects of small hydropower stations

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Virtavesipolitiikka (Water stream policy) is a new Finnish term referring to regulation and governance of streams. The European Union and the Finnish state have designed political tools to restore natural flows and species of water environment, and removal of small hydropower dams has become its important objective. We focus on three removal debates studying how broad political aims take place as practices. Hydrosocial context means actors, material elements and broader relations linked with dam removal debates. With it we examine conditioning and enabling factors of water stream policy and outline a conceptual frame to help research on dam removal policies. The data was gathered from documents, media, and interviews of various stakeholders.

Keywords: hydrosocial context, policy translation, natural resources policy, water policy